

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Budget Estimates May 2017
Communications Portfolio
Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Question No: 110

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Hansard Ref: Page 123, 24/05/2017

Topic: Better service in the Pacific

Senator Griff, Stirling asked:

Senator McKENZIE: Was that letter to the ABC?

Senator GRIFF: No, that letter was in one of the submissions that are available publicly.

Mr Millett: To add to the answer to that question, in the wake of shortwave and the decision by the ABC to integrate its international services within the broader ABC, we are working on a broader international strategy, which is designed particularly to look at how we better service the Pacific. There are two ways you can do that: through your distribution methods and through your programming. We are looking particularly around *Pacific Beat*, which is a very important program in servicing that audience. I had some conversations with DFAT yesterday just to inform them of progress. We are very interested in looking at how we can better service that region, particularly in programming. I promised I would come back and report on progress in developing that strategy.

Senator GRIFF: How many formal complaints would you have had so far?

Mr Millett: I will take that on notice but it is still fairly minimal and has been fairly unchanged: two for the Pacific.

Answer:

The ABC has received two formal complaints from residents within the coverage of the Pacific shortwave service since the cessation of the service on 31 January 2017.